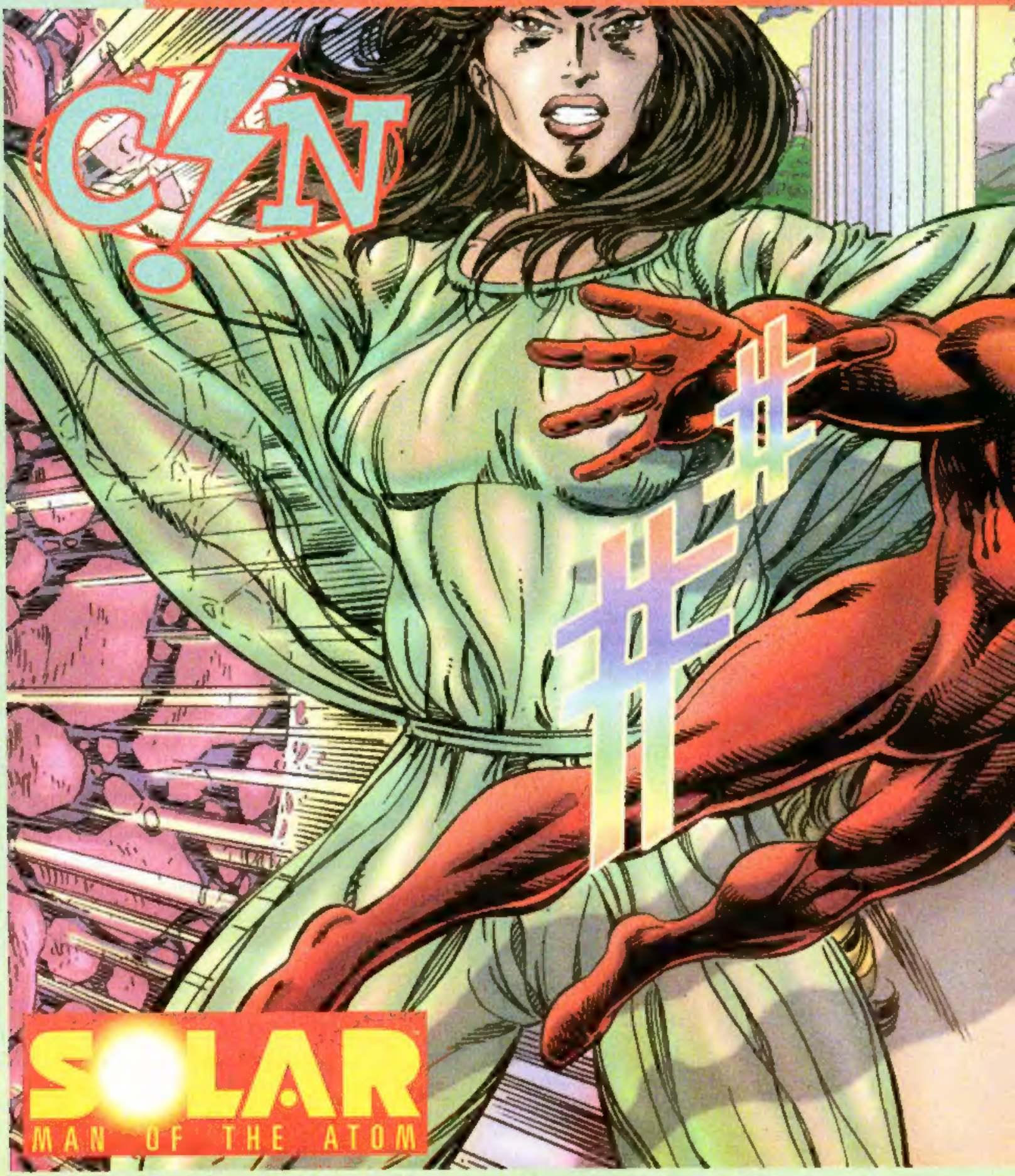
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SOLAR
MAN OF THE ATOM

942

Unexpected Solar Activity On the Way

Dynamic Forces, the leader in autographed comics and collectibles, is about to enjoy a moment in the sun.

Or more specifically, a moment of Solar activity.

Solar, Man of the Atom—the hero who was a part of Gold Key's Silver Age superhero line before his successful resurrection as a core member of the 1990's Valiant Universe—is returning to comic shops later this year... but not in comics form (yet).

In September, Dynamic Forces will unveil a pair of Solar products that capture the two energy of both eras of Solar prominence. the ***Solar, Man of the Atom Premiere Statue*** and the ***Solar, Man of the Atom Lithograph***, both produced under license from Classic Media. These are the first of a variety of forthcoming Dynamite items, including fine art giclees, busts, and dioramas in addition to statues and lithos.

Nick Barrucci of Dynamic Forces explained how the deal came about. "We asked... and asked, and asked, and asked!" Allen joked. "Seriously though... We've been fans of Solar and Magnus all of our lives and wanted to work on the characters in whatever way we could. These are great characters...

"Anyway, we approached the licensing agents, and had quite a few discussions regarding what could and what could not be done. After many conversations, we were able to nail almost everything we wanted to do."

Rather than focusing on just one era, DF is celebrating both periods of Solar brightness with these collectibles. "For the most part, it's based on the classic Gold Key era, but you'll see some influence from the Valiant reboot," Barrucci said. "Here's the deal: the books from the sixties were so powerful, that they had an impact on the creators in the nineties. Even if we stated that we were sticking to the original 100%,, so many creators from the '90s used the '60s as their reference point that both eras are similar regardless. I mean, Magnus chopping off a robot's head from the original series was homaged in the nineties reboot. The characters—his "girl Friday" Leeja Clane, Senator Clane, 1A who raised him, the city of Central Rob, and the rest—were all there in the newer versions as well.

"The core stuff is great. Our first ***Solar Statue*** shows our hero drifting through the clouds, which was originally done time and time again—and then *Barry Windsor-Smith* did a rendition of it that knocked it out of the park. And that's the influence of our first Solar piece. Simple yet striking. Quite powerful.

"Our first ***Magnus Statue*** will be feature an iconic image of our hero chopping off a robot's head. And to make sure that we sell through as many as possible, we're keeping the price point at under $50.00,. so that all fans could afford them."

Dynamic Forces has enlisted a team of talented creators to prepare the sculptures. "Solar was designed and sculpted by *Rick Force*; Rick also did the Wolverine on the Skulls that we are co-releasing with Diamond Select Toys. The Magnus piece was done by *Andrew Wiernicki*, both in terms of design and sculpt; I'm not sure who is doing the casting, but the paints will be by Andrew as well. Both of these are going to be sweet pieces. ***The Solar, Man of the Atom Premiere Statue*** is scheduled for September release, and I'd like to say that ***Magnus*** will follow in October... but November might be more realistic. t's a beautiful piece, and it needs to be presented properly."

"And once these two are released this year—and these are the only two that we are doing this year—we are going to do the ***Magnus & Solar Bookends***. This is going to be trickier, as we have to come up with a design that works for both characters, and yet allows them to work together. I don't think that they crossed over in the '60s, so making this one make sense may mean that they are not released until 2007."

While ***Magnus*** has remained a fan-favorite because of the work of Silver Age great *Russ Manning*, ***Solar*** is an oddity in that the book has endured as a Silver Age classic even though it none of the major Silver Age greats contributed story or art. What does Barrucci think is the reason for the character's perpetual popularity? "Well, Solar had sensational stories and a solid writer/art team. You had *Paul S. Newman* crafting the stories and art by *Bob Fujitani* to start with, and then the steady art of *Frank Bolle*. They presented a steady stream of sensational stories. And I don't know how the fans found these comics back in the '60s, but find them they did! They struck a chord that few non-Marvel, non-DC Comics struck at that time.

"And when Valiant needed characters to 'mine'—well, there were so few to choose from, and from the few that there were, Valiant gambled on these guys. And their gamble paid off in spades. I mean, who would have thought in the early '90s that ***Solar*** and ***Magnus*** would have been as popular as they were? A lot of that success was due to ***Barry Windsor-Smith*** and *Bob Layton* (with *Jim Shooter*) bringing great stories and dynamic visuals to these characters."

Dynamic Forces' agreement with Classic Media includes more than statues, of course. "We're also releasing a brand new ***Solar, Man of the Atom Lithograph*** featuring art by *Bob Layton* at the same time as the statue is being released," Barrucci said. "This is a brand new piece, and it's done in homage to the original creators. But when you look at it, you can't help but see this is a 'full circle' piece, in that Bob was influenced by the '60s art, and then did some of the work in the '90s, which also helped influence this piece. A *beautiful* full circle."

While Dynamic Forces would love the opportunity to produce ***Solar*** and ***Magnus*** comics, that's not a part of their deal right now. Byron Preiss Visual Publications has a license to produce an series of original ***Magnus, Robot Fighter*** graphic novels (the first of those books by *Louise Simonson* and newcomer *Damion Hendricks*, initially slated for spring release, has been pushed back to fall 2005), and Allen is eager to see how these creators reinterpret ***Magnus*** for the 21st Century.

"Louise is such a wonderful writer, and the artist looks quite promising.," Barrucci said. "***Magnus*** is a great character, as is ***Solar***, and they deserve to be out in the public eye. I don't know if ***Solar*** is licensed out, but it would be great to see him shine again as well. These characters deserve to return with the right creators and the right marketing that would promote them as the prime characters that they are, presented in the best way possible. The good news is that the fine folks at Dark Horese are doing fantastic collections of the original stories, which are nice for fans such as myself, since the original issues of these comics can be extremely hard to find."

Readers can revisit the characters Silver Age glory days, thanks to those Dark Horse Comics collections that Barrucci mentioned. ***Solar, Man of the Atom Volume One*** (reprinting #s 1-7) and ***Volume Two*** (reprinting #s 8-14) are both in comic shops now, as are ***Magnus, Robot Fighter Volumes One*** (reprinting #s 1-7), ***Two*** (reprinting #s 8-14), and ***Three*** (reprinting #s 15-21). ***Solar, Man of the Atom Volume Three,*** reprinting ***Solar #s*** 15-21, follows in September. While the original stats for these series have been lost over the years, Dark Horse has done an outstanding job of shooting from the original comics, meticulously restoring the art and colors for the beset possible presentation. Each collection is priced at $49.99.

Dynamic Forces' ***Solar, Man of the Atom Premiere Statue*** is priced at $49.99; the ***Solar, Man of the Atom Lithograph*** is priced at $19.99, with a limited edition handsigned by artist *Bob Layton* carrying a $49.99 pricetag. Look for them in September.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!
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a Bug scan for Digital Comics Preservation

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

Coming Comics DC in September

Superman takes on Black Adam in ***Action Comics #831*** by *Gail Simone, John Byrne, & Nelson*—and if that's not reason enough to pick it up, this issue also a ***Villains United*** tie-in!

Frank Miller, Jim Lee, & Scott Williams continue their take on Batman's second year of crimefighting in ***All Star Batman & Robin, the Boy Wonder #2***, an all-access book that contains the iconic elements of the Bat-mythos that have become an enduring part of popular culture. After witnessing his parents' brutal deaths, Dick Grayson's life is seemingly destroyed. But Batman whisks the young lad into his care and promises him something Bruce never had: retribution.

Batman's quest to learn the truth about the Red Hood's identity takes him to the graveyard that's the supposed final resting place for former Robin Jason Todd. What will he find there? *Judd Winick, Doug Mahnke, & Tom Nguyen* answer that question in ***Batman #645.***

Hush will stop at nothing to learn the secrets of a brand-new Clayface! But what's the connection between Clayface and the murder investigation surrounding Alfred? Can Batman unravel the mystery while keeping Alfred alive and out of police custody? See what happens next in ***Batman: Gotham Knights #69*** by *A.J. Lieberman, Al Barrionuevo, & Bit.*

The final history-making Bat-tales illustrating by the incomparable *Neal Adams* are collected in the appropriately-entitled ***Batman Illustrated by Neal Adams Volume 3 HC***. This 280-page volume includes stories from ***Batman #s 232, 234, 237, 243-245, & 251,*** along with two never-before-reprinted stories done for Peter Pan records and a sketchbook section showcasing Adams' advertising and custom comics work with the Caped Crusader!

The Birds return to Metropolis — and one of them's staying for good! Three guest artists — *Bruce Timm, David Lopez, & Fernando Blanco* — tell the tale of one unforgettable moving day in ***Birds of Prey #86,*** written by *Gail Simone.*

The sadistic Spectre has been trying to rid the DCU of its practitioners of magic — and

now he sets his sights on Etrigan the Demon! See what happens next in ***Blood of the Demon #7,*** a ***Day of Vengeance*** tie-in by *John Byrne* with *Will Pfeifer.*

In ***Catwoman #47,*** Catwoman joins a group of super-villains who've taken over the East End. She wants to tear them apart from the inside, even if it means dealing with every baddie from Captain Cold and the Cheetah to the powered protectors of the proletariat, Hammer and Sickle. *Will Pfeifer & Pete Woods* do the honors on this issue's contents, while *Adam Hughes* supplies the striking cover image.

The landmark comic book event by *Marv Wolfman & George Pérez* is about to turn twenty—and to commemorate its significance, DC is presenting it in the ultimate must-have package, ***Crisis on Infinite Earths: The Absolute Edition.*** This oversized slipcased set contains two hardcover books. The 368-page Book One includes the full twelve-issue maxiseries (which was painstakingly restored and meticulously recolored in 1998), with an introduction by *Marv Wolfman*, afterword by *Dick Giordano*, and creator bios. *George Pérez* provides all-new art for the dustjacket..The 96-page Book Two contains a compendium featuring the full behind-the-scenes story on the years-long making of the maxiseries complete with memos, notes, original plots and commentary from *Marv Wolfman* and *Jerry Ordway*; the ***Official Index to Crisis*** and ***Official Index to Crisis Crossovers*** being reprinted for the very first time, completely updated; a look into post-Crisis events and aftermath stories, how the Superboy/Legion conundrum was solved, and a look at the twentieth anniversary of this seminal event. *George Pérez* provides all-new art for the dustjacket. (This deluxe edition won't be released until November, but it's advance-solicited with September titles.)

Bill Willingham, Justiniano, & Walden Wong bring ***Day of Vengeance*** to a startling end with the sixth issue, entitled "The Death of Magic." Can the combined forces of the Shadowpact finally stop the Spectre, or is the magic destined to go away for good?

The Doom Patrol loses a member to the dark side when Nudge's full powers and personalities are revealed. But while Nudge takes on the Doom Patrol, Vortex's mysterious "brothers" arrive with a secret mission of their own in ***Doom Patrol #16*** by *John Byrne & Doug Hazlewood.*

On sale Sept 28 • 32 pg, FC, $2.50 US

Stuart Immonen, Kathryn Kuder, & Steve Lightle sign on as guest creators for ***Flash #226.*** Wally gets a break on a mountain climbing expedition…but an unexpected avalanche requires a rescue from The Flash!

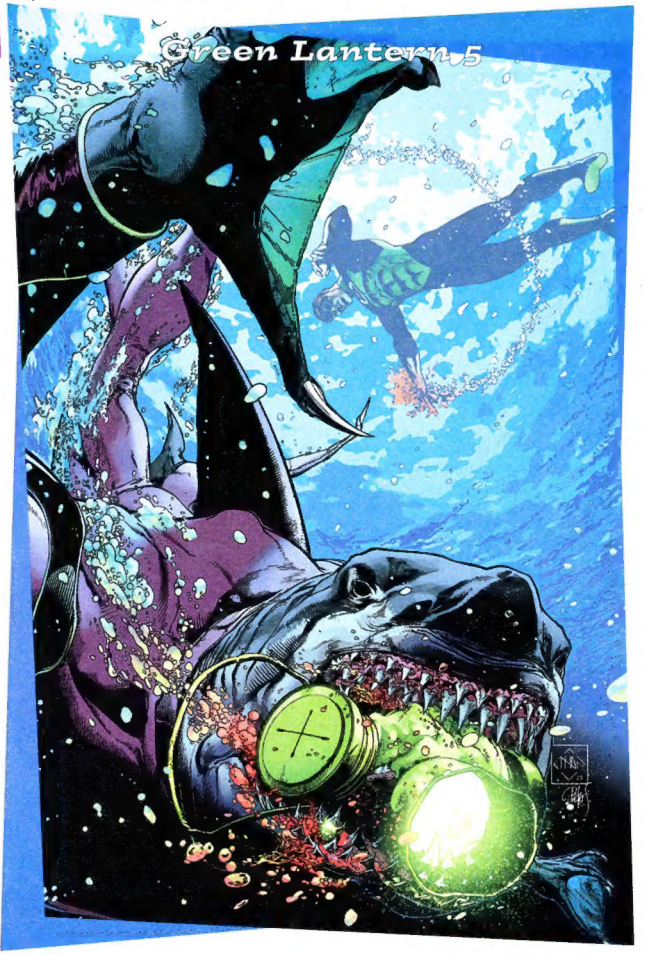
Stuart Moore, Jamal Igle, & Rob Stull present a ***Villains United*** tie-in tale in ***Firestorm #17.*** Trapped in a remote power installation by the Society, Firestorm — and a mysterious girl called Gehenna — must defeat Black Adam's army of supervillains to escape!

As if a dead body in a Robin costume isn't enough, *Greg Rucka, Ed Brubaker, Kano, & Stefano Gaudiano* add another murdered hero to the mix in ***Gotham Central #35.*** There's only one person who knows the answers behind this case's many questions—but Batman's not talking!

"Heading into the Light," a four-parter spinning out of the events of ***Identity Crisis,*** launches in ***Green Arrow #54*** by *Judd Winick, Tom Fowler, & Rodney Ramos.* Green Arrow faces off against an old villain who's suddenly become much more deadly. His name is Doctor Light, and he wants revenge on the heroes who violated his mind...

Geoff Johns & Ethan Van Sciver, the creators of the megahit ***Green Lantern: Rebirth*** limited series, reunite for the story arc that begins in ***Green Lantern #5***—an issue that also begins Van Sciver's tenure as a member of ***Green Lantern's*** rotating art team. This issue pits Hal Jordan against the deadly new Shark as alien abductions across the West Coast increase dramatically! But what do these extraterrestrials want, and what strange events in the past are they truly responsible for? Guest-starring Hector Hammond!

Geoff Johns, Dave Gibbons, Patrick Gleason, & Christian Alamy return the Green Lantern Corps to their former glory in ***Green Lantern Corps: Recharge,*** a five-issue miniseries. For too long, the light of the Green Lantern Corps has been absent from the cosmos.



Publisher
Comic Shop News, Inc.

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Now, as darkness and chaos descend upon space, it is time for the Guardians of the Universe to revive the Corps' proud heritage, to recruit new servants to their cause, and to recharge the mighty power that once they wielded. Guy Gardner, Kyle Rayner, & Kilowog are all a part of this cosmic drama that finds the heroes confronting a plot to destroy Oa itself.

Following Hawkman's brutal death in ***Hawkman #41,*** the Golden Eagle assumes the mantle of the Hawk in ***Hawkman #44.***But has he already gone too far? The villains responsible for destroying Carter Hall are disappearing one by one, until only the true mastermind remains…

Jack Cross's search for a missing weapon of mass destruction more deadly than any nuclear devise takes him to Guantanamo Bay in *Warren Ellis & Gary Erskine's* ***Jack Cross #2.*** He hopes to question the one woman who can lead him to it — but will he be in time?

"Crisis of Conscience" by *Geoff Johns, Allan Heinberg, Chris Batista, & Mark Farmer* concludes in ***JLA #s 118 & 119,*** both slated for September release. In #118, the knock-down-dragout battle between Martian Manhunter and Despero continues, as the fight that began on the JLA Watchtower ends on Earth! Meanwhile, Superman intervenes in the Justice League's vote to mindwipe the Secret Society of Super Villains, and Zatanna makes a fateful decision. And in #119, the JLA must face off against Despero in Wayne Manor! But in order to stop Despero, the team will be forced to turn against one of its own…

To preserve the OMAC Project, Brother Eye plays the ultimate trump card in *Greg Rucka & Jesus Saiz's* final issue of the ***OMAC Project*** limited series. But how will it affect the DCU?

The course of the war takes a surprise turn as traitors and unexpected allies reveal themselves in *Dave Gibbons, Ivan Reis, & Marc Campos'* ***Rann-Thanagar War #5.*** As battle rages, a world is reborn — but one warrior makes the ultimate sacrifice!

As Tim prepares to make the biggest decision of his life — whether or not to leave Batman's employ for a Black Ops job in the U.S. government — an old flame comes back into his life. The problem? This one died in the Gotham Gang War. Love has never been so creepy as it is in ***Robin #142*** by *Bill Willingham, Scott McDaniel, & Andy Owens.*

Grant Morrison's Seven Soldiers saga continues with ***Seven Soldiers: Mister Miracle,*** a four-part miniseries featuring art by *Pascal Ferry.* A young Shiloh Norman is all grown up, and now, with the help of his Mother Box — an alien computer — he has become the world's coolest escape artist, a cross between David Blaine and Puff Daddy. After a hallucinatory encounter with the being called Metron, the formerly aimless and dissatisfied Mister Miracle finds himself with a new mission in life. He now believes he has evidence of an apocalyptic cosmic war being fought through human agents on Earth!

Judd Winick & Josh Middleton detail the first meeting of the Last Son of Krypton and Earth's Mightiest Mortal in ***Shazam!/Superman: First Thunder #1,*** the forty-page kickoff of a four-part limited series. While Superman must stop members of a cult from stealing an ancient artifact from the Metropolis Natural History Museum, Captain Marvel must defeat giant robots rampaging through Fawcett City. When the same cult attempts to steal an artifact from a Fawcett City Museum, Superman drops by to lend a hand, and teams up with Captain Marvel against an all-new threat!

This fall, DC unveils the first volumes in a new ongoing line of black-and-white phone-book-sized reprint collections, ***Showcase Presents.*** Their initial offerings include ***Showcase Presents Superman Volume One,*** collecting classic Silver Age material from ***Superman #s 122-133*** and ***Action Comics #s 241-257,*** including the first appearances of Supergirl, Brainiac, the Fortress of Solitude and more; and ***Showcase Presents Green Lantern Volume One,*** collecting ***Showcase #s 22-24*** and ***Green Lantern #s 1-17,*** the stories that laid the groundwork for the whole Green Lantern mythos.

Talk about going keeping the action level high—first they launch the series with a Supergirl-Power Girl faceoff, *Jeph Loeb, Ian Churchill, & Norm Rapmund* pit Supergirl against Superboy in ***Supergirl #2!*** So why is Kara going toe-to-toe with the Boy of Steel? And where do the rest of the Teen Titans fit into all of this?

Now *here's* a tie-in you don't want to miss: ***Superman #221*** links to ***Day of Vengeance, OMAC Project, Rann-Thanagar War, & Villains United!*** In this issue by *Mark Verheiden & Ed Benes,* OMAC is running loose... villains are united... magic is everywhere... so naturally, it's a perfect time for Bizarro to show up!

Supergirl guest-stars in ***Superman/Batman #23,*** the fourth part of *Jeph Loeb, Ed McGuinness, & Dexter Vines'* "With a Vengeance" six-parter. Superman and Batman may have escaped the Maximums, but that doesn't stop those vengeance-seeking superheroes from starting a full-scale invasion of Earth — with everyone who's ever been a Maximum! And somehow this is all tied to Darkseid's fate and the most unexpected death you'll see this year!

A classic DC character returns in ***Vigilante,*** a six-issue maxiseries by fan-favorite *Bruce Jones & Ben Oliver.* The story begins in modern-day Metropolis, where two men with very different philosophies work toward finding justice in an unjust world. Dr. Justin Powell believes in justice for the individual, including the psychotic souls whose whose abuse as children has led them to do terrible things. Vigilante believes in the right of society to be protected from these psychotics with no regard for restraint or the law. Now, the entire city wants to know who the Vigilante is…but who will find him first — the media or the authorities?

In ***Villains United #5,*** *Gail Simone, Dale Eaglesham, & Wade Von Grawbadger* pit Catman against Deadshot. Meanwhile, the group sworn to undermine the villainous Society finds itself at odds with one another as they try to determine the answer to a single mystery: Who is Mockingbird?

In the aftermath of the recent events which have shaken the DCU, Wonder Woman goes on global patrol, saving lives and spreading her message of peace wherever she can. But Brother I and the OMAC Project have other plans… See what happens next in ***Wonder Woman #221,*** by *Greg Rucka, Rags Morales, & Mark Propst.*

DC collected editions for September include:

- ***The Batman Strikes Volume Two: In Darkest Night,*** a digest-sized volume collecting #s 6-10 of the series based on the Kids WB show;
- ***Batman: War Games Act 3,*** collecting the final installments of 2004's multi-book Bat-crossover event;
- ***Cartoon Network Block Party Volume Two: Read All About It!,*** a digest-sized collection of tales featuring Dexter's Laboratory, Kids Next Door, Billy and Mandy, Ed, Edd & Eddy, and many others;
- ***Green Lantern: Rebirth,*** a hardcover edition of the landmark miniseries by *Geoff Johns, Ethan Van Sciver, & Prentis Rollins* that restored Hal Jordan to his rightful role;
- ***JLA: Syndicate Rules,*** collecting the *Kurt Busiek-Ron Garney-Dan Green* story arc from ***JLA #s 107-114,*** along with a bonus story from ***JLA Secret Files 2004;***
- ***Kamandi Archives Volume One,*** collecting the first ten issues of the post-apocalyptic saga by *Jack Kirby &Mike Royer;*
- ***Robin/Batgirl: Fresh Blood,*** collecting the

four-part crossover from ***Robin #s 132-133 & Batgirl #s 58-59;***

- ***The Secret of the Swamp Thing,*** a manga-sized full-color collection of the origin and first ten adventures of the Swamp Thing by *Len Wein & Berni Wrightson;*
- ***Sgt. Rock's Combat Tales Volume One,*** a full-color digest collection of ten classic war stories by *Robert Kanigher, Joe Kubert, Jerry Grandenetti, Irv Novick, & Russ Heath;*
- ***Superman: Birthright,*** a softcover edition of *Mark Waid, Leinil Francis Yu, & Gerry Alanguilan's* retelling of Superman's origins; and
- ***Wonder Woman Volume Three: Beauty & the Beasts,*** collecting *George Pérez's* ***Wonder Woman #s 15-19,*** along with ***Action Comics #600.***

Coming Comics CMX•DC in September

Schoolgirl Makishima Misaki's life is about to get a lot more complicated in *Iwahari Yuji's* ***Chikyu Mistake Volume One!*** She has inherited the house that belonged to her maternal grandfather, in a small, quiet, snowy town that boasts its own local legend, the Hohopo. Moving into the house with her klutzy widower father, she soon makes new friends — including one very unusual friend: the Hohopo itself, a shape-shifting creature who looks like a small Loch Ness Monster…when he's not masquerading as the boy next door!

In *Tachibana Kaimu's* ***Pieces of a Spiral Volume One,*** Sakuya and Wakyo are reincarnated and reunited only to discover that Bishu-sama—their master and mentor from a past existence—is in their midst and in grave danger from vengeful demons! Still unsure of their own powers and the nature of their cunning and elusive enemy, they must rescue Bishu from the dark forces that roil within his reincarnated form.

Coming Comics WildStorm•DC in September

WildStorm kicks off a series of six oneshot specials with ***ABC: A-Z—Tom Strong & Jack B. Quick.*** Produced by *Peter Hogan, Kevin Nowlan, & Chris Sprouse,* this book is filled with page after page of informative material that reveals all the secrets and will answer any questions about Tom Strong and Jack B. Quick, along with their supporting casts and gadgets!

The Authority's comic relief, Kev, returns in a story that promises a darker edge. ***The Authority: The Magnificent Kev,*** a limited series by *Garth Ennis & Carlos Ezquerra,* begins when Kev learns of the death of a close friend; that news leads him to entertain ideas of the futility and horror of the life he leads — until he gets a call from the boss. She's got another lethal mission for him that involves his least-favorite allies: The Authority! And this time, events will take a decidedly darker turn…

WildStorm's flagship superteam returns in ***Wildcats: Nemesis,*** a nine-issue maxiseries by *Robbie Morrison, Talent Caldwell, Horacio Domingues, & Matt Banning,* a tale that pits the 'Cats against the most deadly enemy they've ever faced. Framed for the betrayal and slaughter of the Kheran military forces on Earth at the dawn of mankind, rogue warrior Charis Adrastea embarks on an epic quest to avenge the massacre, uncovering a conspiracy that threatens the entire universe. Hunted by friend and foe alike, she takes the name "Nemesis" — from the Greek goddess of vengeance, whose myth she inspires. Now, as her blood-soaked quest nears its end, only the Wildcats can stop her!

Joe Benitez, Marchia Chen, & Joe Weems deliver some chilling adventure in ***WraithBorn,*** a six-issue limited series. Long ago, powerful Immortals ruled the world, wreaking unbridled havoc and destruction, until their ultimate defeat by the Wraithborn. Mankind has since forgotten these saviors, save for legends and myths, but the Immortals remain among us still, ever struggling to regain their former dominion. For millennia, the Wraithborn have kept a vigilant watch, wielding their mysterious powers to hold the Immortals at bay. But now the Wraithborn power is unexpectedly passed on to a timid high school girl, who must discover the secrets of her new abilities before she falls prey to the Immortals!

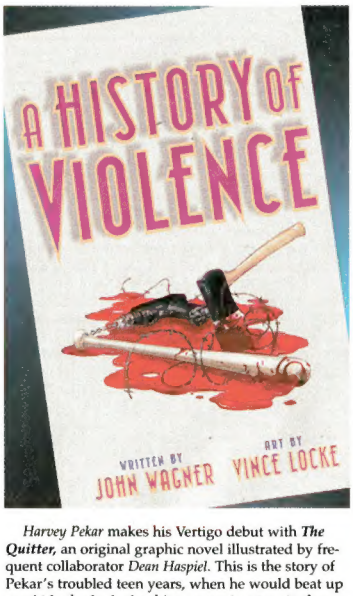
WildStorm collected editions for September include:

- ***Ex Machina Volume Two: Tag,*** collecting #s 6-10 of the series by *Brian K. Vaughan, Tony Harris, & Tom Feister;* and
- ***Sleeper Book Four: The Long Way Home,*** collecting the final installments of *Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips'* ***Sleeper*** saga from v2 #s 7-12.

Coming Comics Vertigo•DC in September

Just in time to coincide with the debut of the film starring *Viggo Mortensen, Ed Harris, & William Hurt,* DC offers the first Vertigo edition of *John Wagner & Vince Locke's* ***A History of Violence.*** In this suspenseful noir crime story, Tom McKenna is a simple family man who instantly becomes a media celebrity when he takes down a couple of wanted murderers who attempt to rob his diner. But his newfound fame draws the attention of a group of merciless mobsters who have been looking to settle a score with McKenna for over twenty years...

Michael Wm. Kaluta signs on as guest illustrator of ***Lucifer #66,*** which features a standalone tale by *Mike Carey.* As all Creation crumbles, and demonic armies clash on the fields of Heaven, an earthly sorcerer weaves a potent summoning spell — which is answered by the imp Gaudium. And a foul-mouthed, devious fallen cherub with big ambitions is only the start of his problems…



Harvey Pekar makes his Vertigo debut with ***The Quitter,*** an original graphic novel illustrated by frequent collaborator *Dean Haspiel.* This is the story of Pekar's troubled teen years, when he would beat up any kid who looked at him wrong just to win the praise of his peers. And when he failed to impress, whether on the football team, in math class, in the Navy or on the job, he simply gave up. A true tour de force, ***The Quitter*** is the universal tale of a young man's search for himself through the frustrations, redemptions and complexities of ordinary life.

Vertigo collected editions for September include:

- ***Bloody Mary,*** collecting two four-issue miniseries by *Garth Ennis & Carlos Ezquerra* that chronicle the exploits of one of the best death-dealing commandos to ever see combat, caught in a future World War; and
- ***Hellblazer: Black Flowers,*** collecting *Mike Carey's* Constantine tales from ***Hellblazer #s 181-186.***

Coming from DC Direct

The art of *Carmine Infantino* is the inspiration for *William Paquet's* ***Silver Age Batman & Robin Statue.*** This limited edition, hand-painted cold-cast porcelain statue measures approximately 9.5" tall and includes a full-color Certificate of Authenticity. (February 2006 release)

Under special arrangement with Japanese manufacturer Kotobukiya, DC Direct presents the ***Deluxe 1:6 Scale Batman Vinyl Statue.*** Only three thousand of these hand-painted statues will be available for sale outside of Asia this year. (November release)

DC Direct begins a new line of busts with the ***Women of the DC Universe: Wonder Woman Bust,*** designed by *Adam Hughes* and sculpted by *John G. Mathews.* (February 2006 release)

DC Direct looks *back* into Batman history for their ***Batman: Knightfall Action Figure Series.*** (***Knightfall...*** Batman... broken back... get it?) The first release includes ***Azrael as Batman, Nightwing, Catwoman, Bane,*** and the ***Mask of Tengu Batman*** action figures, each available separately. (February 2006 release)

DC expands its poster l
Batman & Robin, the Boy
art by *Jim Lee & Scott Willi*
Guardian Angels Poster, f
(February 2006 release)

Coming Com Image in Se

Todd Livingston, Robert T
back into the woods with
The Castle of Shadows. Th
has pilot Jack Shannon an
held prisoner in the myste
by a scientist who is creati
apes — and plans to use o
equally monstrous experin

Next year, Sony Picture
ture film, ***The Covenant,*** o
story of four teens whose
line of Warlocks. Howeve
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the comic shop racks in Se
when Top Cow will unveil
focuses on the quartet's su
the time before they've rea
their powers. *Aron Coleite,*
Staples introduce these fou
year-olds in this ninety-six
novel.

Dawn fans can count th
the ***Dawn 2006 Calendar*** b
which features twelve all-n
Linsner's seductive supers

The creator of ***Pigtale,*** C
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Warren Ellis returns to In
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Tinnell, & Neil Vokes head ***The Black Forest Book 2:*** his graphic novel sequel d mystic Archie Caldwell rious Castle of Shadows ng super-soldiers out of ur heroes as subjects of an nent.

s has a new horror-adven- n their schedule; it's the Families belong to a long er, readers who don't want s story a try can check out ptember, because that's their prequel, which mmer camp experiences in lly learned to properly use *Tone Rodriguez, & Val r very* atypical thirteen- -page debut graphic

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Doi Nedelcu, offers readers oks in the 104-page ***es HC.*** These sketches and from both his analog and llected for the first time rdcover book. Also includ- ughts as he takes you sses and techniques

nage with ***Fell,*** an edgy *Ben Templesmith.* As the hard Fell is transferred g city to Snowtown, a roster numbers three-and- e has no legs). Dumped in this collapsing urban trashzone, Richard Fell is starting all over again. In a place where nothing seems to make any sense, Fell clings to the one thing he knows to be true: Everybody's hiding something. Even him.

The unlikely heroes get costumes in *Hugh Sterbakov, Leonard Kirk, & Andrew Pepoy's* ***Freshmen #3.*** But there's some bad news for the newly-empowered college freshmen as one of their ranks will fall in a confrontation with the mega-powered Frat Guys.

Eric Stephenson & Jamie McKelvie bring a long, hot summer to an end with ***Long Hot Summer,*** an original graphic novel about Ken, a society dropout who has to re-evaluate his entire life when he meets the girl of his dreams... a girl who only has eyes for Ken's best friend Steve—the guy who's been Ken's free ride for most of his life.

Ronin Hood the 47 Samurai, the project that was introduced to legions of readers on Free Comic Book Day, makes its graphic novel debut this September. This ninety-six-page tale by *Jeff Amano, Craig Rousseau, & Wayne Faucher* tells the story of a masterless Ronin who seeks the avenge his fallen lord.

Ring of Roses, the 144-page near-future suspense tale by *Das Petrou & John Watkiss,* has been rescheduled for September release. The story is set in London in the 21st century, but it's a London very different from today The Church rules England with an iron rod, but has begun to lose its grip on power. Times are tense. Then six high-powered priests are brutally murdered on the Thames. Samuel Waterhouse, a flamboyant barrister is hired to investigate, but soon realizes he is out of his depth. So he hires a hardened criminal, William Barnett, to assist him. But what they find is a dark conspiracy that no one anticipated.

The immortal Saint-Germaine and his companion Lilith return to comic shops in ***Saint-Germaine: Shadows Fall,*** a graphic novel by *Gary Reed, Vincent Locke, Guy Davis, Mike Perkins, & Philip Xavier.* Lilith's disappearance and the perils of the modern world give Saint-Germaine a new challenge — to surrender his immortality.

Jim Valentino helms a crossover involving his two Image series with "Dead Man Walking," a story that begins in ***Shadowhawk #5*** (co-written by *Jim Keplinger* and illustrated by *Carlos Rodriguez & Ana Frenitas)* and continues in ***Blacklight #4*** (co-written by *Scott Wherle* and illustrated by *John Toledo & Marc Deering).* The new BlackLight comes to town and she and ShadowHawk face off against Corpse, a man who — if he can't kill himself — is more than willing to kill them! But who is he?

Bruce Mutard gets artistic in ***The Silence,*** an original graphic novel. The story focuses on Choosy McBride, a gallery manager who visits remote Northern Queensland to find a mysterious, anonymous artist whose work possesses a power neither has seen before. Art, philosophy, God and love are put through the ringer, and Choosy and Dmitri are about to discover that silence speaks loudest.

Spawn gets a long-awaited revitalization this fall when *Todd McFarlane* returns as co-writer of the series he created. ***Spawn #150,*** a forty-eight-page issue by McFarlane, *Brian Holguin, Philip Tan, Angel Medina, & Danny Miki,* takes the series in a bold new direction. To call attention to the new focus, the book will be offered with four covers... including one by McFarlane himself!

Image collected editions for September include:

- ***Invincible Volume Five: The Facts of Life,*** reprinting #s 20-24 and #0 of the teen superhero series by *Robert Kirkman, Ryan Ottley, & Bill Crabtree;*
- ***NYC Mech Volume One: Let's Electrify,*** collecting the series by *Ivan Brandon, Miles Gunder, Andy MacDonald, Alex Maleev, Dave Johnson, Esad Ribic, Bengal, & Kelsey Shannon*—now in color for the first time;
- ***PvP Volume Three: PvP Rides Again,*** collecting #s 13-18 of *Scott Kurtz's* humor series; and
- ***ShadowHawk: Born Anew*** collects the first four issues of the new ***ShadowHawk*** series by *Jim Valentino, Jim Keplinger, Carlos Rodriguez, Albert Puig, & Ana Freitas.*

Coming Comic Marvel in September

Richard K. Morgan, Sean Phillips, & Bill Sienkiewicz continue the exploits of Natasha Romanova in ***Black Widow 2 #1.*** Some say she's a traitor, some say she's a murderer...and what most say about her isn't even printable. But nobody denies that the former Cold War spy is a force to be reckoned with. The last man foolish enough to send killers after her paid the highest price, but his friends on Capitol Hill will ensure that Natasha doesn't get off easy...and not even Col. Nick Fury can protect her this time. Meanwhile, the survivors of Natasha's last tirade start coming back to haunt her...and they're starting to join forces!..

In ***Daredevil #77,*** The Eisner-Award-winning team of Brian Michael Bendis & Alex Maleev continue their final arc as Wilson Fisk makes an offer to the Feds they can't refuse. The Kingpin offers up Matt Murdock in exchange for a free pass out of trouble...and the Feds are taking the deal!

Keith Giffen& Mitch Breitweiser bring big trouble to an isolated Alaskan town in ***Drax The Destroyer.*** The crash of an interstellar prison transport unleashes Paibok the Power Skrull, Lunatik, the Blood Brothers and Drax the Destroyer on an unsuspecting populace. Oh... And you think you know Drax? Big, green and not all that bright—is that the Drax you're thinking about? Then you don't know Drax! T

Tony Bedard & Paul Pelletier bring the Exiles back to prime earth in "Earth 616," a three-parter that kicks off in ***Exiles #69.*** Problem is, it's not so prime anymore. So not only do the Exiles have House of M to deal with, they have to face the most powerful mutant on the planet.

Marc Sumerak & Chris Eliopoulos' Calvin-esque Franklin Richards tales from the pages of ***Power Pack*** are collected in ***The Fantastic Four Presents Franklin Richards—Son of a Genius.*** And to make it even better, they've added a new story that sees Franklin and H.E.R.B.I.E. gearing up for the wildest Halloween in Marvel history.

Garth Ennis & Clayton Crain get their motors running in ***Ghost Rider #1.*** Is there any way to escape from the curse that forces the Ghost Rider to ride the highways of hell for all eternity? His saving grace could be in the form of an unlikely ally-- an industrious angel with a deal that would free Ghost Rider once and for all!

House of M rockets to a startling conclusion in September, courtesy of *Brian Bendis & Olivier Coipel.* The heroes have gathered around the forces of the House of M. But who was really responsible for these heinous crimes against humanity? And will the world ever be the same again? And of course, the storyline continues into a number of crossover books, including

- ***Fantastic Four: House of M #3***
- ***Iron Man: House of M #3***
- ***Spider-Man: House of M #4***
- ***Incredible Hulk #86***
- ***Uncanny X-Men #464*** (also features the debut of new series artist *Chris Bachalo)*
- ***Wolverine #33***

On Yancy Street, on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, someone--or something--is putting the hurt on the neighborhood's tough guys. Someone or something very large and very brutal, which is leaving a trail of twisted, broken bodies in its wake. Ben Urich, Jessica Jones, and the FF's ever-loving blue-eyed Thing are on the case, but what exactly is the nature of the threat they're facing? *Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa & Valentine DeLandro* answer that question in ***Marvel Knights 4 #22.***

Robert Kirkman & Paco Medina reveal the long, sad history of Titannus in ***Marvel Team-Up #12.*** Learn everything there is to know about Marvel's newest source of villainy from his tortuous birth to the events that led him to seek refuge on Earth – all is revealed, nothing is held back. This issue sets the stage for future ***Marvel Team-Up*** arcs coming in the next year, so don't miss it!

Maximum Fantastic Four, initially announced back in the spring, has been rescheduled for September release. In case you forgot, this is the massive 224-page coffee-table volume that presents a panel-by-panel exploration of ***Fantastic Four #1*** by *Stan Lee & Jack Kirby.* The book also contains a substantial introduction and afterword by bestselling author and comic-book enthusiast *Walter Mosley;* art commentary by Kirby expert *Mark Evanier;* graphic design by *Paul Sahre;* and a scale-sized, high-resolution reproduction of ***FF #1.***

In ***New Avengers #11, David Finch*** returns to introduce the mysterious New Avenger Ronin... but who is he, and why has Captain America recruited him into the fold? Could it have something to do with Hydra helping the Silver Samurai get out of the country after he broke out of prison.

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of *Mark Gruenwald's* ***Squadron Supreme*** limited series, the *Official Handbook* hits the highway for a reality-hopping road trip with ***The Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe: Alternate Universes 2005***! This volume contains in-depth bios on all manner of versions and variants, from Earth A to Earth X and all Earths in between!

Brian Bendis & Michael Gaydos introduce a new cast member in ***The Pulse #11*** as Jessica Jones and Luke Cage's baby is born at last!

Brian Bendis & Michael Gaydos introduce a new cast member in ***The Pulse #11*** as Jessica Jones and Luke Cage's baby is born at last!

From the pages of ***New Avengers,*** *Paul Jenkins & John Romita Jr.* launch ***The Sentry,*** a new eight-part limited series. He's the most powerful super hero in the Marvel Universe, a forgotten legend from a time gone by, reawakened and reborn in the world of today. So why is the Sentry his own worst enemy?

Spider-Man Unlimited #11 is a special guest star issue, featuring two stories—one that guests the Incredible Hulk, the other the ever-loving blue-eyed Thing.

J. Michael Straczynski & Dan Jurgens kick off the first of two ***Supreme Power*** spinoff limited series debuting in September. ***Supreme Power: Hyperion*** finds the hero's secrets revealed to the world, leaving him alone and hunted. Four new super-powered individuals -- each based on a character from the original Squadron Supreme -- are after his hide, and they've got the will and means to take him down.

The second spinoff limited series, ***Supreme Power: Nighthawk,*** by *Daniel Way &Steve Dillon,* focuses on the Batman-esque member of the team. As a young boy, Kyle Richmond—the man who would one day become Nighthawk—witnessed the senseless murder of his parents. It was a traumatic event that has left him scarred for life—and turned him into a hero more feared than the criminals he polices. Now it's happening again...but on a much larger scale. The people of Chicago—men, women and children—are dying in the streets, victims of a monster whose thirst for slaughter cannot be quenched. Long ago, Kyle Richmond looked into the face of madness—now, it's looking back at him.

Mike Avon Oeming & Scott Kolins travel back in Marvel history to present a classic tale of the original Thor, along with his comrades Balder and the Warriors Three as well as his father, Odin, in ***Thor: Blood Oath #1.*** The Warriors Three are put on trial for murder. Standing beside his brothers-in-arms, Thor ties himself to their fate, as they are sent on an impossible journey by the Giants to pay a blood price for the killing of a Giant's son.

The Fantastic Four's visit to another world... one that seems very much like a certain Marvel Universe... concludes in ***Ultimate Fantastic Four #23,*** by *Mark Millar & Greg Land.* As it turns out, only one man can offer them salvation: the mutant master of magnetism—Magneto!

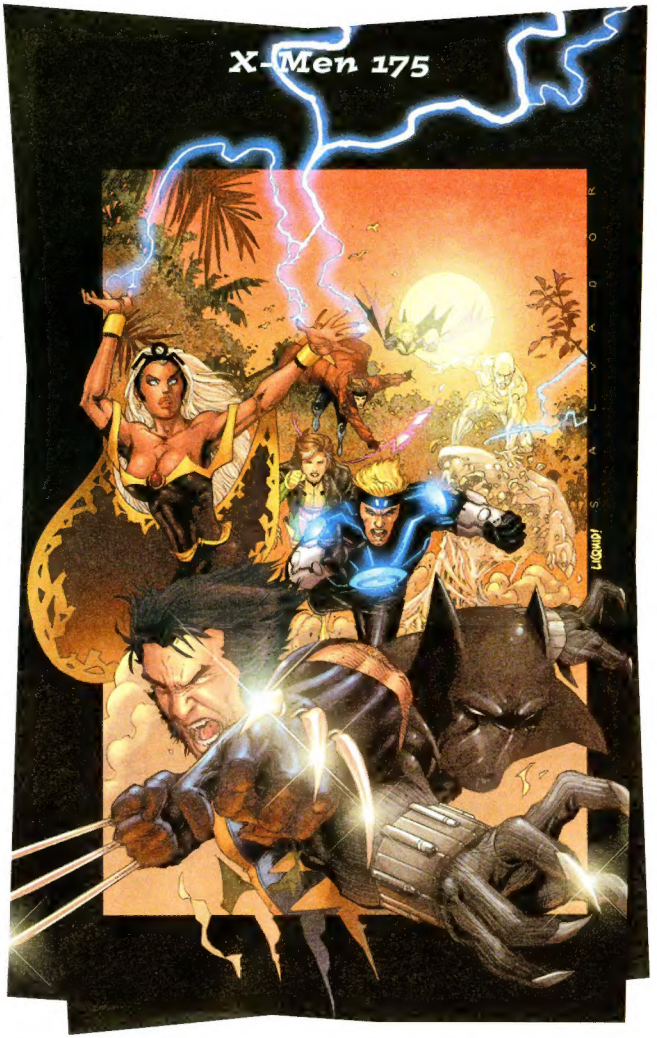
Ultimates 2 #8 finds Tony and Natasha on the eve of their wedding... but when Nick Fury makes his move against the mysterious traitor that's been plaguing the team, the team will never be the same! Also, Captain America and Wasp hit a serious snag in their relationship...is this the end for the Ultimate Universe's hottest couple? And could it be the beginning of the end for the Ultimates? *Mark Millar & Bryan Hitch* will clue you in soon enough!

A four-part crossover tale begins in ***X-Men #175*** and continues into ***Black Panther #8.*** The X-Men travel deep to the heart of Africa to investigate reports of strange, mutated animals roaming wild near Wakanda. But what happens when their discoveries lead them to the King of Wakanda himself — T'Challa, the Black Panther?

Colossus goes solo in ***X-Men: Colossus—Bloodline,*** a five-parter by *David Hine & Jorge Lucas* that springs from the pages of ***Astonishing X-Men.*** Colossus has returned from the dead, only to find his relatives are being killed in his homeland! Peter must travel to Russia to face a shadowy villain whose origin lies in Peter's past.

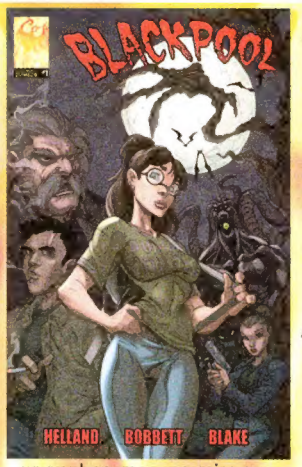
Marvel's collected editions for September include:

- ***Avengers: The Serpent Crown Affair,*** collecting *Steve Englehart & George Pérez's* ***Avengers #s 141-144 & 147-149;***
- ***Black Panther: Who is the Black Panther?,*** reprinting the first six issues of the series by *Reginald Hudlin & John Romita Jr.;*
- ***District X Volume Two: Underground,*** reprinting ***District X #s 7-14*** and the District X prologue from ***X-Men Unlimited #2;***
- ***Essential Ghost Rider Volume One,*** a black-and-white compendium of ***Marvel Spotlight #s 5-12, Ghost Rider #s 1-20,*** and ***Daredevil #138;***
- ***Essential Spider-Man Volume Seven,*** a black-and-white phonebook-sized compendium collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 138-170, Annual #10,*** and ***Giant-Size Spider-Man #s 3-5;***
- ***Exiles Volume Eleven: Time Breakers,*** reprinting ***Exiles #s 62-68;***
- ***Gambit: Hath No Fury,*** collecting ***Gambit #s 7-12;***



- ***Hulk Visionaries: Peter David Volume Two,*** reprinting ***Hulk #s 330-348;***
- ***Last Hero Standing,*** reprinting the five-issue limited series by *Tom DeFalco & Pat Olliffe;*
- ***Marvel Masterworks: Captain Marvel Volume One,*** collecting ***Marvel Super-Heroes #s 12-13*** and ***Captain Marvel #s 1-9;***
- ***Marvel Masterworks: Golden Age Human Torch Volume One,*** reprinting ***Human Torch #s 2-5a*** from 1940-41;
- ***Mary Jane Volume Two: Homecoming,*** collecting the first four issues of the series;
- ***Punisher Max Volume One,*** collecting the first twelve issues of the current ***Punisher*** series;
- ***Rogue: Forget-Me-Not,*** collecting ***Rogue #s 7-12;***
- ***Runaways Volume Four: True Believer,*** a digest-sized collection of *Brian K. Vaughan & Adrian Alphona's* ***Runaways Volume 2 #s 1-6;***
- ***Spider-Girl Volume Four: Turning Point,*** collecting ***Spider-Girl #s 17-21 & 1/2;***
- ***Squadron Supreme,*** a new edition of the classic alternate-worlds story by *Mark Gruenwald &* others;
- ***Ultimate Spider-Man Volume Six,*** a hard-cover that reprints ***Ultimate Spider-Man #s 60-71*** by *Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley;*
- ***Wolverine Classic Volume 2,*** collecting the *Chris Claremont-John Buscema-Gene Colan* tales from ***Wolverine #s 6-10;*** and
- ***Wolverine: Enemy of the State Volume One,*** collecting ***Wolverine #s 20-25.***

This June, from the pen of Jonathan Helland and the pencil of Terrell Bobbett, a horror of epic proportions. From new publisher PHENOMENON COMICS...



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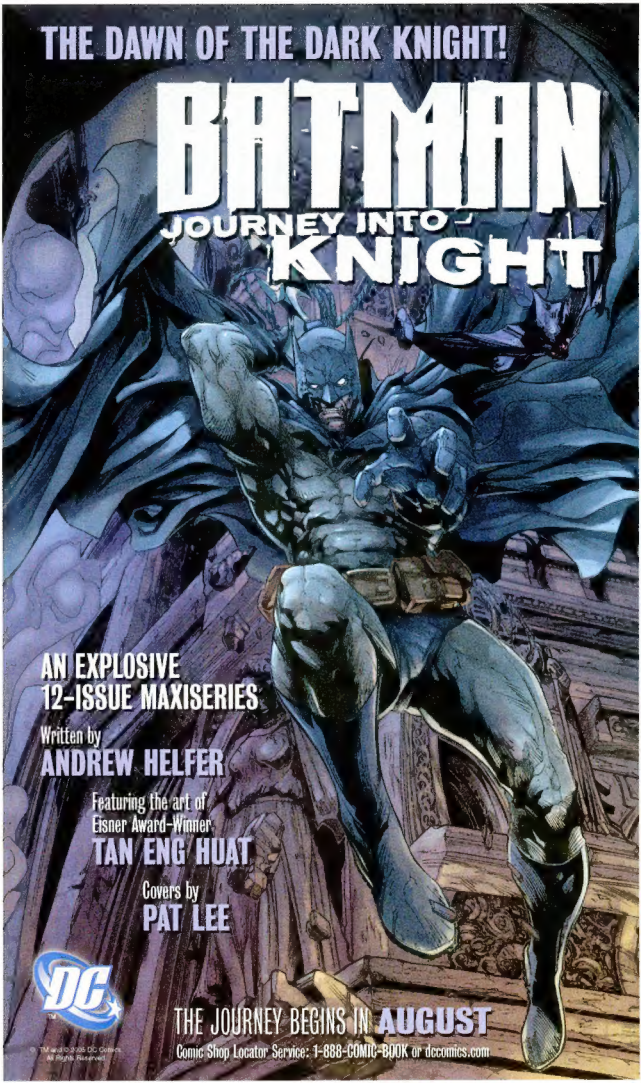
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